

117 Mill Street (House)  
117 Mill Street  
Lock Haven  
Clinton County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5537

HABS  
PA  
18-LOKHA,  
8-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

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## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

117 MILL STREET (House)

HABS No. PA-5537

**Location:** 117 Mill Street, Lock Haven, Clinton County, Pennsylvania

USGS Lock Haven Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:  
18.294590.4556870

**Significance:** The building at 117 Mill Street is included in a locally significant historic neighborhood which contains architecturally impressive nineteenth-century residential structures with ties to Lock Haven's lumber industry. The Mill Street residential structures, including 117 Mill Street, are significant in another context. They are significant as a collection of early-twentieth-century vernacular multi-family housing. Located close to Lock Haven's commercial district, Mill Street provided working class housing for support personnel of local businesses, salesmen, and industrial laborers.

The building at 117 Mill Street contributes to the character of its historic neighborhood as an example of an early-twentieth-century multi-family residential building in Lock Haven. As with many of the surrounding Mill Street residences, 117 Mill Street provided rental housing to working families in Lock Haven.

**Description:** The 2 1/2 story, two-bay frame house located at 117 Mill Street exhibits a side hallway plan and is three rooms deep and one room wide. Although originally covered with brick veneer, exterior walls are now sheathed with "false brick" asphalt siding. The roof is cross-gabled and covered in composition roofing material. The primary entrance is in the northern bay of the front, or east, facade. There is a decorative bracketed arched pedimented portico over the front door and a concrete stoop. Exterior details include one-over-one double hung sash windows, wide eaves with simple decorative brackets, and a front gable vent. The foundation appears to be stone faced with concrete. A chimney was removed on the south facade and the shadow of a shed addition is located at the southwest corner of the house along with signs of an infilled door. A shed overhang is located over the rear door, and a rear window has been infilled.

Although 117 Mill Street remained architecturally intact prior to 1972, interior detailing was completely altered after a major flood which struck Lock Haven at that time. Plaster walls were removed and wood panelling and ceiling tiles were installed. The only visible original architectural detailing on the interior is the staircase with its carved and beaded newel post and turned balustrade. The major character-defining elements have been removed or covered with panelling. Non-historic flush doors, trim, and lowered ceiling tiles are present throughout.

**History:** This property is located on part of the former site of the O.D. Satterlee Sawmill, located on the west side of Mill Street in the late-nineteenth century. In 1906, a larger property block (including today's 113, 115, 117 and 121-123 Mill Street) contained an ice house, a two-story stable, outbuildings, and a two-story frame dwelling.

It appears that owners James and William Miller razed the ice house and constructed a greenhouse and three brick veneer dwellings between 1909 and 1911, including the building at 117 Mill Street. All of the dwellings were single two-story or 2-1/2-story dwellings with one-story frame porches. A one-story frame outbuilding was located directly behind the house at 117 Mill Street. By 1925, the property was subdivided into several lots. At that time, the 117 Mill Street property contained only the present dwelling; the outbuilding behind the house had been removed.

Residents of 117 Mill Street have historically been short-term tenants with occupations such as machinist, salesman, and granite cutter. Ownership of the property changed rapidly, with the average ownership being about five to ten years between 1909 and 1949. It does not appear that the property was ever owner-occupied, and in more recent years, the principal tenants have been college students from Lock Haven State University.

Documentation of the building at 117 Mill Street was undertaken during October and November of 1991. The documentation serves as a mitigative measure for the treatment of this historic property as it would be affected by a proposed Lock Haven flood protection project under the direction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District. The house at 117 Mill Street is slated for removal from the property to accommodate the construction of a flood wall as a part of the flood protection project. The house will be marketed for sale in an attempt to have it moved. If the house cannot be sold, it will be marketed for architectural salvage. The last recourse for the house is demolition.

**Sources:** *Clinton County Legal Records*. Lock Haven, Pennsylvania.

Dashiell, David A. *117 Mill Street*. Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form 035-LH-30. Harrisburg, PA: Bureau of Historic Preservation, 1/1985.

Hannegan, Susan. *General History and Description of Clinton County, Preliminary Research Report, Clinton County Historic Sites Survey, 1985-86*. Harrisburg, PA: Bureau of Historic Preservation, 1986.

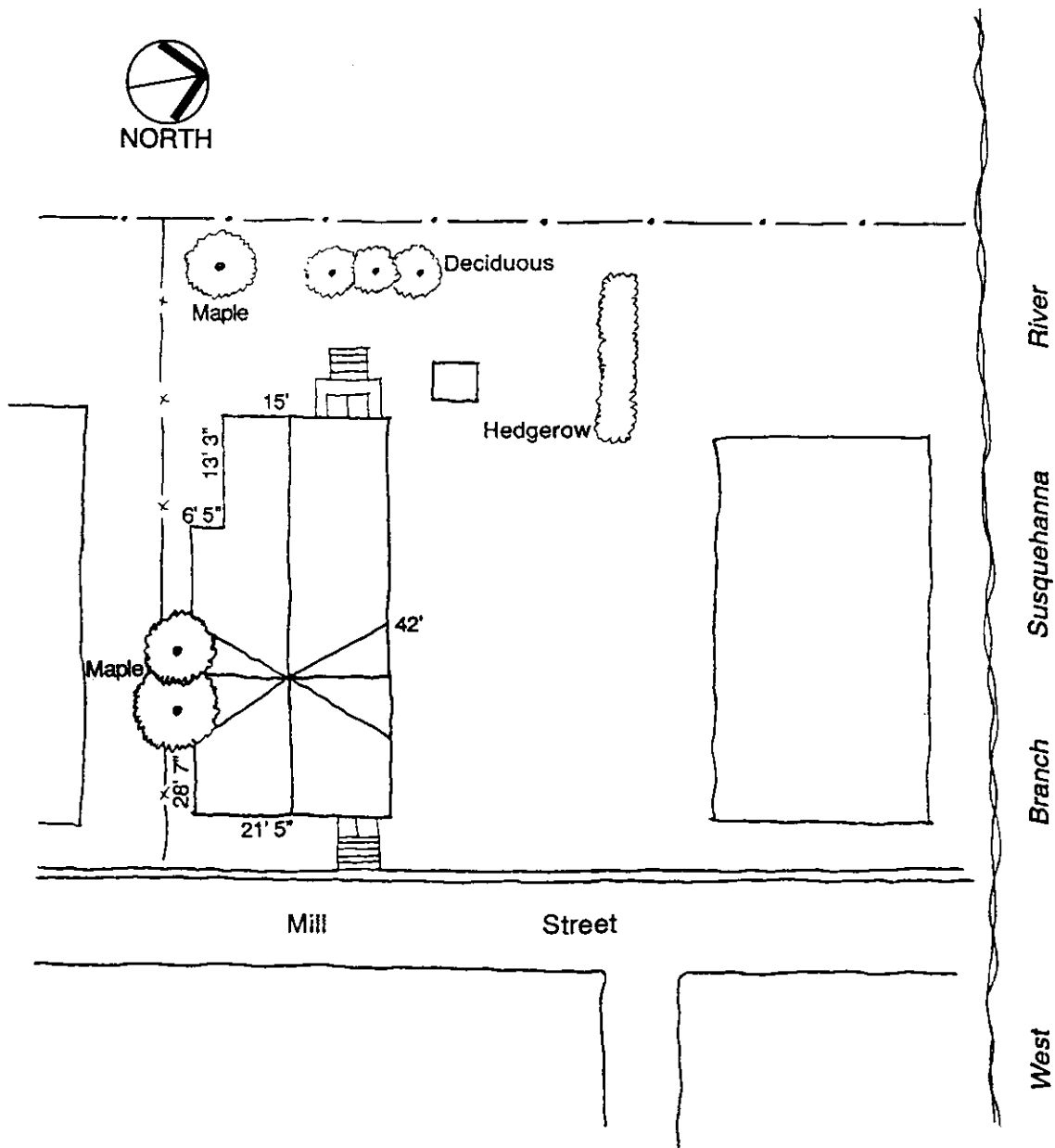
Kelsey, Watson. 1991. Interview by Susan C. Nabors, October, Lock Haven, Pennsylvania.

Lock Haven City Directories - 1915 through 1949. Located at the Ross Library, Lock Haven.

Sanborn Map Company. *Fire Insurance Map of Lock Haven*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1885, 1891, 1901, 1906, 1914, 1925, 1954.

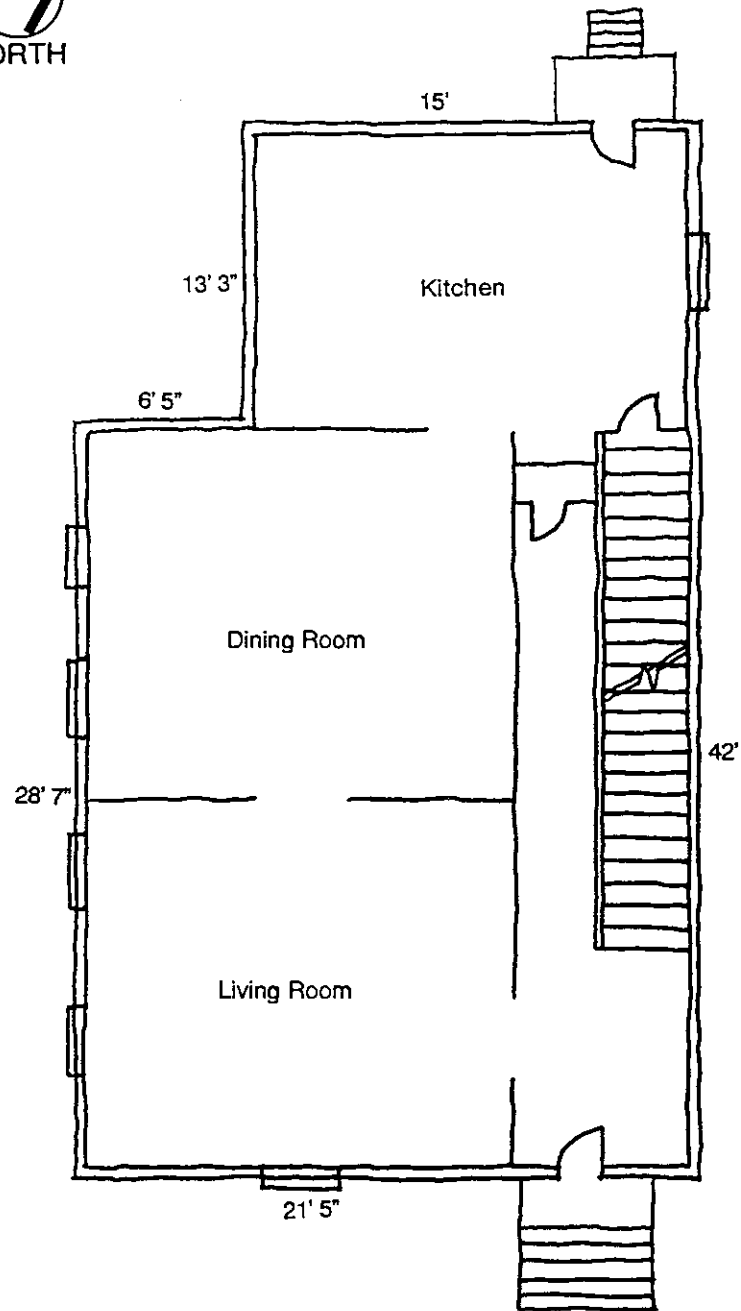
Vento, Frank J., Philip T. Fitzgibbons, Scott D. Heberling, and James Herbstritt. *Phase I Inventory Investigations of Potentially Significant Prehistoric and Historic Period Cultural Resources for the Lock Haven Flood Protection Project, Clinton County, Pennsylvania*. Prepared for the Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by Vendel Enviro-Industrial Consultants, 1989.

Historians: Martin B. Abbot and Susan C. Nabors  
Kise Franks & Straw  
Fall 1991



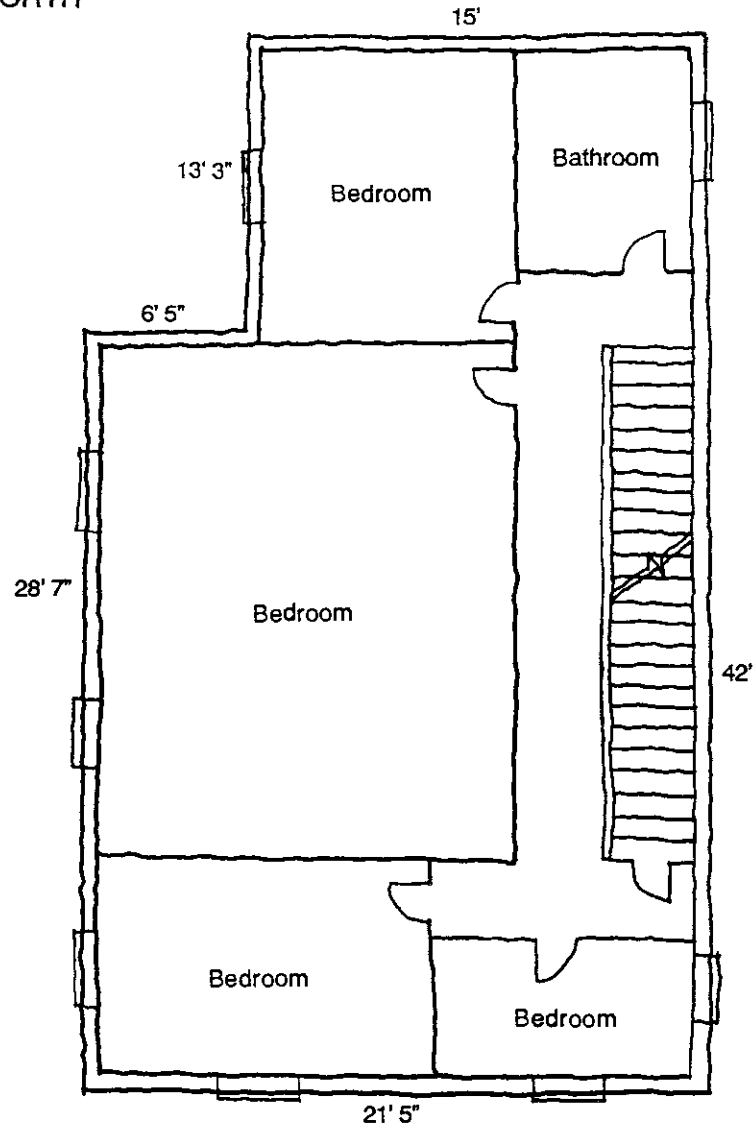
Site Plan  
(Not to Scale)

Date Drawn: 1992  
Prepared By: Jill Cremer



First Floor Plan  
(Not to Scale)

Date Drawn: 1992  
Prepared By: Jill Cremer



Second Floor Plan  
(Not to Scale)

Date Drawn: 1992  
Prepared By: Jill Cremer